REMARKS

An Office Action was mailed on April 10, 2003. Claims 1 – 17 are currently pending in the application, with claim 18 having been previously withdrawn from consideration. With this Response, Applicant amends claim 1. No new matter is introduced.

OBJECTION TO THE SPECIFICATION

The Title of the Invention is objected to as being non-descriptive, Applicant amends the Title, and respectfully requested that the objection to the specification be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1 - 17 are rejected under the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. § 112 as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim that which Applicant regards as his invention. Specifically, the Examiner suggests that the term "these" in the limitation "displaying these all at once" is ambiguous. Applicant amends claim 1 to replace the term "these" with the term "the corresponding group of keywords", and respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,678,054 to Shibata in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,078,914 to Redfern. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata in view of Redfern and U.S. Patent No. 5,635,814 to Luciw. Claims 3, 6 – 8 and 14 – 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata in view of Redfern and Microsoft Bookshelf Basics Edition (Bookshelf). Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata in view of Redfern and U.S. Patent no. 6,201,894 to Saito. Claims 9 – 13 are rejected

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under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibata in view of Redfern, U.S. Patent No. 4,654,873 to Fujisawa et al. and U.S Patent No. 5,774,859 to Houser et al. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

In independent claim 1, Applicant discloses an information entry apparatus comprising an alphanumeric entry unit for entering an alphanumeric string, a display unit for displaying keywords in a plurality of corresponding fields, a word dictionary for storing a plurality of keywords corresponding to the fields and storing a plurality of similar words for deducing keywords, and an alphanumeric processing unit for cutting out predetermined word strings from the entered alphanumeric string, searching the dictionary to extract corresponding keywords, and displaying the corresponding keywords all at once in the corresponding fields on the display unit (see, e.g., Applicant's FIG. 1).

For example, Applicant's FIG. 11A illustrates a dictionary table for the "case name" field of FIG. 10A. The table of FIG. 11A lists keywords to be associated with similar word strings for the field "case name". As claimed in claim 1, and with reference to FIG. 11A, Applicant's alphanumeric information processing unit operates for example to extract a word string from an entered alphanumeric string (for example, "breaking and entering"), to search the similar word strings in each of the dictionary tables for the various display screen fields, and upon finding a match in on of these dictionary tables, to display an associated keyword ("theft") in the associated display screen field ("case name").

Shibata discloses a data searching device including a keyboard for entering a data string, a display unit, primary and secondary memory areas, and a selector for selecting secondary data for display when the entered string matches associated primary data. The Examiner argues that Shibata's primary and secondary memory areas are equivalent to Applicant's dictionary. The Examiner, however, acknowledges that Shibata fails to disclose Applicant's alphanumeric

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information processing unit for cutting out strings from the entered string before searching the data dictionary, and suggests that Redfern teaches such a limitation.

Redfern discloses a natural language meta-search system and method, the system employing search engines capable of extracting relevant terms from a natural language query (see, e.g., column 3, lines 9 – 15 of Redfern). However, neither Shibata nor Redfern teach or suggest the Applicant's claimed dictionary feature for associating keywords with display screen fields and alphanumeric processing unit feature for extracting and displaying corresponding keywords on the display in their associated and corresponding fields. In addition, none of Luciw, Bookshelf, Saito, Fujisawa or Houser disclose these features of Applicant's claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 is not made obvious by the combination of Shibata and Redfern, and is therefore in condition for allowance. As claims 2 – 17 depend from allowable claim 1, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2 – 17 also stand in condition for allowance for at least this reason.

Applicant further submits that claim 5 is allowable on alternate grounds. Claim 5 claims the information entry apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a form dictionary for storing a plurality of form information corresponding to a plurality of display formats, each having one or more associated keywords, wherein the alphanumeric information processing unit refers to the form dictionary in order to select a second screen as identified by a keyword displayed on the first screen (see, e.g., Applicant's FIG 13B for an illustration of the form dictionary).

The Examiner acknowledges that Shibata and Redfern fail to disclose Applicant's claim form dictionary, and introduces Saito for disclosing this limitation. Saito discloses a method for extracting regions from an original image having a predetermined format (see, e.g., columns 2, lines 27 – 39 of Saito). Regions are identified with reference to predetermined format information. Unlike Applicant's claimed invention, Saito does not teach selecting a second

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display screen for display based from a form dictionary <u>that matches predetermined keyword</u> <u>displayed on a first display screen to the selected second display screen.</u>

CONCLUSION

An earnest effort has been made to be fully responsive to the Examiner's objections. In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that claims 1 – 17, consisting of independent claim 1 and the claims dependent therefrom, is in condition for allowance. Passage of this case to allowance is earnestly solicited. However, if for any reason the Examiner should consider this application not to be in condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Any fee due with this paper may be charged on Deposit Account 50-1290.

Respectfully submitted,

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TJB:pm

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